

Extreme Makeover

Training at Yakima

A Lot of Army Bull . . . Riding

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

September 2006
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Soldiers

MDW's Rescue Engineers

Military District of Washington Engineer Company





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SPC Travis Mayhew of the MDW Engineer Company extracts a simulated casualty from the top of the USA Today building during a technical-rescue competition outside Washington, D.C.

— Photo by Don Wagner

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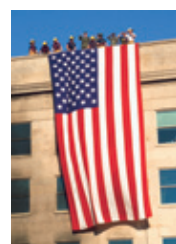
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WHILE this month's primary focus is on training, our lead story deals with a real-world operation — the assistance provided by Maryland National Guard members to Americans evacuated from war-torn Lebanon. Read Heike Hasenauer's coverage beginning on page 3.

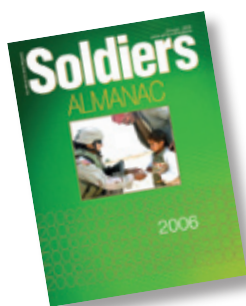
The first of our training-related features, "Extreme Make-over," details the changes taking place at Grafenwöhr Training Area in Germany. The post is gaining both troops and infrastructure, and Beth Reece gives us a detailed look at what's in store for "Graf."

For a look at one of the training exercises in which U.S. Army, South, is a major player, check out Heike's "Fostering Cooperation in Latin America." And to find out how Soldiers train for technical rescues in the National Capital region, have a look at Don Wagner's "MDW's Rescue Engineers."

If you need a training area that can swallow up a division's worth of Soldiers and have room to spare, you head for the Pacific Northwest. SPC Leah R. Burton lets us in on what it's like when you're "Training at Yakima." And, finally, we go back to Heike for a close-up on the computer-based exercise "Unified Quest 2006."

For the inside story on the Army's connection to one of the world's most demanding sports, see Mary Kate Chambers' "A Lot of Army Bull ... Riding." We also offer a look at the changing USO in SSG Julie Nikolov's "Same Mission, New Methods," and end this month's offering with Andricka Hammonds' "Fighting for a Pentagon Memorial."


Steve Harding
Managing Editor



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Guard Soldiers Help Evacuees

Story and Photos by Heike Hasenauer

DAYS after Israeli warplanes battered southern Lebanon in a fierce counterattack on Hezbollah terrorists, U.S. Marines landed in force in Lebanon for the first time since 1983.

They were there to aid in the evacuation of U.S. citizens, using helicopters to airlift them to waiting cruise ships for onward movement to Cyprus.

By July 20, nine days after the fighting began, more than 2,000 people had been evacuated in this way, according to a CNN report.

In the early hours of July 21, as the number of people being evacuated increased and the fighting intensified, about a dozen Maryland National Guard Soldiers from the 1297th Combat Sustainment and Support

Battalion, headquartered in Havre de Grace, were at Baltimore-Washington International Airport to assist arriving evacuees in whatever way they could.

"We're helping to carry luggage, offering Red Cross-provided boxed lunches, helping them find their way through the airport to make flight connections, and even providing spiritual support," said SSG Chris Gerben.

Chaplain (CPT) William Baron of the battalion's 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry, from Annapolis, was among three chaplains on hand for several incoming flights of evacuees into BWI on July 20 and 21.

"Some people have had it pretty rough – dodging bombs to cross Beirut," Baron said. "Some were riding in cars and had artillery shells explode around them and saw parts of buildings crumble. The elderly have medical conditions. Many of the evacuees are dual citizens who are from Lebanon and were visiting relatives there."

An overriding theme is the concern some evacuees have for relatives left behind, he said.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora provided more insight into the gravity of the situation when he reported on the "Larry King Live" show that 330 Lebanese had been killed and 1,100 had been injured as of July 20. The Israeli attacks "are bringing the country back 20 years," he said.

News reports indicated hundreds of thousands of people were fleeing Lebanon. Some 50,000 evacuees had

◀ Some 200 evacuees from Lebanon arrived at BWI Airport in the early morning hours of July 21 to the applause and cheers of waiting loved ones.



▲ Chaplain (CPT) William Baron of the Maryland National Guard's 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment, greets newly arrived evacuees from Lebanon at BWI Airport.

fled into neighboring Syria in just one day, according to CNN reports. And a half million Lebanese citizens have been displaced by the fighting.

Salah Ahmed, a Springfield, Va., resident, didn't yet know what his wife and children had experienced as he waited anxiously for their arrival. He held a large, colorful bouquet of flowers.

"My family arrived in Lebanon together on June 20," Ahmed said. "I left on July 1, and they were supposed to return to the States in August, but then the fighting started."

Maha Stephanou and her two children had also been visiting family.

"I was there for a month," she said. "I was evacuated with 120 other families who live in three apartment buildings in Beirut. We were transported by bus to a boat at a marina and then to the cruise ship *Orient*. Most of my family is still over there."

In a CNN report, Roula Talj, a Lebanese political adviser, said anyone who was able to flee Lebanon has fled. "It's very tense. It's very sad." 📺







◀ **Iraq**

Soldiers of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team provide cover for other troops during Operation Lion Phase III along the Tigris River near Mosul.

— Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock, USAF



▲ Afghanistan

Soldiers load a casualty aboard a UH-60 air ambulance during a medevac mission near Qalat.

— Photo by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson, USAF



▲ Iraq

A Soldier from 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment (at left), and an Iraqi soldier remove weapons and ammunition from a cache discovered near Forward Operating Base Summerall in Bayji.

— Photo by Master Sgt. Jonathan Doti, USAF



▲ Fort Jackson, Miss.

A trainee attacks a tire (used to simulate an enemy) with her rifle and bayonet during initial-entry training.

— Photo by
Staff Sgt. Stacy Pearsall, USAF

◀ Iraq

Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Kalsu brush up on their hand-to-hand combat skills.

— Photo by PO2 Katrina Beeler, USN

AN extreme makeover is bringing big changes to the 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Training Command in Grafenwöhr, Germany.

“Anyone who was here during the Cold War era pictures Grafenwöhr as a rustic, spartan training area. But those returning today are finding great facilities for training and family members. They see that this is the premier place

Former Soldiers staffer Beth Reece is now the director of the Army News Service in Arlington, Va.

to be in U.S. Army, Europe,” said BG David G. Perkins, commander of the 7th JMTC.

A restructuring of USAREUR is shifting the bulk of Soldiers in Germany to Grafenwöhr, where \$300 million is being spent to upgrade existing facilities and create new ones to support a gradual influx of more than 8,000 Soldiers, plus family members.

The migration of units to Grafenwöhr takes advantage of 90 square miles of training area between Graf and neighboring Hohenfels. The vast training area allows units to conduct

both live-fire and maneuver training, and its location affords Soldiers the opportunity to train with coalition partners.

The main growth in units is the arrival of a Stryker brigade combat team scheduled to be in place by summer’s end. Combat-support and combat-service-support units containing engineers, intelligence and artillery Soldiers will join the Stryker BCT in the coming months. The move of the renamed 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment from Fort Lewis, Wash., will be the largest unit move since the end of



Extreme Ma

World War II, JMTC officials said.

“What they’re going to find here is a center of gravity of not only forces stationed in USAREUR, but the collocation of premier training facilities. The benefit is that they will live where they train,” Perkins said.

Coalition

To better convey its multinational training capabilities, the JMTC’s Combat Maneuver Training Center was renamed the Joint Multinational Readiness Center last December. As the name implies, the JMRC embraces

the Army’s sister services and U.S. coalition partners as it prepares units for operational missions.

“The Army no longer fights alone, so part of our transformation is to focus on joint forces and coalition operations,” said COL Thomas S. Vandal, JMRC’s operations group commander.

Soldiers from Italy, Germany, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Russia and other nations are already training with U.S. forces at JMRC.

Explaining the need to train coalition forces as one team, COL Michael G. Clark, JMTC’s chief of staff,

described the deployment of JMRC’s operations battalion to Kabul to assist with security during last year’s election.

“Our guys actually worked for a Romanian battalion — the very battalion they’d recently trained here at Hohenfels. So they knew the people, knew how they worked and understood the communications process,” Clark said. “Integration was so much easier because they were already

▼ Soldiers of the Mannheim, Germany-based 181st Transportation Company conduct a convoy-security live fire.



keover

Story by Beth Reece Photos by Paula Guzman



◀ The range-operations staff helps members of visiting units make the most of their training time at Grafenwöhr.

familiar with one another.”

Multinational training is such a growing need that JMTC has developed an expeditionary training capability, which allows administrators to take training to other nations. And every Army unit rotating through Grafenwöhr now partners with a multinational force.

“We gain a lot from this — from the appreciation of what it takes to operate with other nations downrange, to an understanding of how other nations conduct command and control,” said Clark.

Soldiers of foreign nations also attend JMTC’s Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

“If you go to Poland and see their NCO training, you’ll see the program of instruction is exactly the same as ours, aside from the language. And they’re very proud that their training program is modeled after ours,” Clark added. [See sidebar.]

“We used to focus our training on tankers, infantrymen, artillerymen and engineers. If you weren’t one of those, you weren’t coming here,” he said. “Today we’re training all those, plus combat-support and combat-service-support troops. Every Soldier now needs multiple skills in places like Afghanistan and Iraq.”

Range Upgrades

Battle skills have been honed at Grafenwöhr for more than 100 years — first by the Bavarian army, then the German army, and now by U.S. forces and their coalition partners.

“We’re traditionally known as having a focus on ranges for tank gunnery.

◀ PFC Mariel Sepulveda and members of her unit head out to a convoy live-fire exercise.





Battle skills have been honed at Grafenwöhr for more than 100 years.

In the future we're going to see more use of the land we have available, particularly with the Stryker BCT," said MAJ Don Mills of JMTC Range Control Operations.

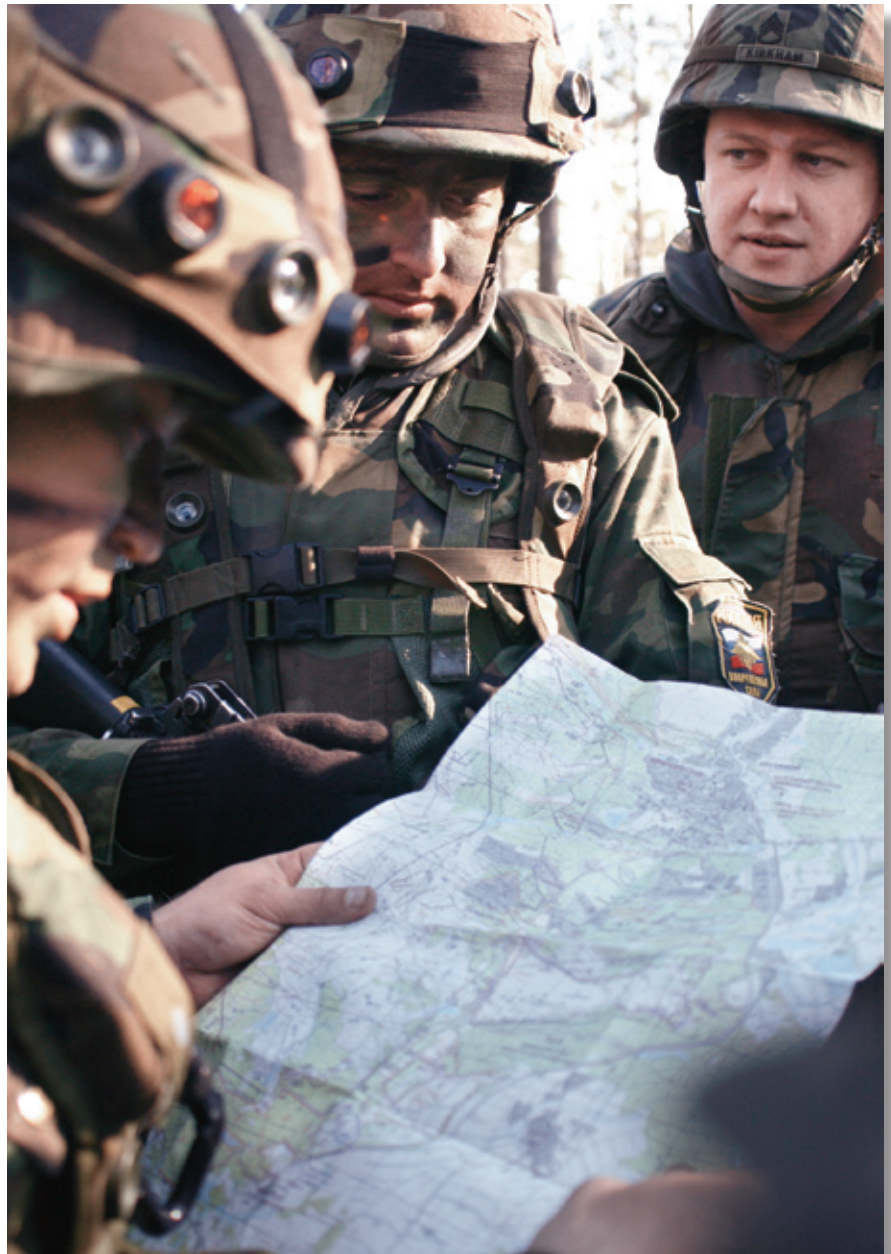
Among the upgrades is a recently completed four-year expansion of Range 118. The range now sports 270 targets and a maximum engagement range of up to 3,500 meters. Once used primarily by aviation units, the range is now versatile enough to be used by any branch, and from platoon to company level.

"Another great thing about Range 118 is that we're able to tie it into Range 117 from the north. This adds even greater depth to the scenarios companies can develop for training. Combined, they offer a really robust series of ranges that are very challenging, with a total of 440 targets," said Mills.

A new range-evaluation system includes the installation of cameras on and inside vehicles, as well as on towers, to give commanders and trainers live feeds of what's happening downrange.

"Soldiers can then sit in an after-action facility and review what they just did. It's a great way for Soldiers to see and learn from their mistakes," Mills said.

Anticipating the unique training needs of the Stryker BCT, the range-operations team converted Range 112 — previously a tank-gunnery range — to a sniper field-fire range. The facility includes a sniper tower, person-



nel movers and an increased distance range.

"Ultimately, we'd like to turn this into a world-class sniper range, and maybe even integrate snipers from other nations into the training," Mills said.

Current plans call for a bayonet-as-sault course. And neighboring Vilseck Army Airfield also enables the Stryker BCT to practice upload and download procedures, and the integration of air-

▲ A Soldier looks on as two Russian troops use a map of the training area to plan their next move.

fields into other tactical scenarios.

Western portions of GTA — too rugged and rocky for use in the past — will lend themselves well to the lighter, more agile Stryker vehicles, Mills said.

For all Soldiers training at Hohen-



fels, JMRC recently completed the new Improvised Explosive Device Training Area, a simulated four-lane highway with exits, an overpass and traffic circle. Urban buildings and live-fire capabilities are in the works.

“We are fully replicating what Soldiers are doing in combat and giving them more iterations at the squad and platoon level in these environments,” said MAJ Eric Timmerman, an observer-controller at Hohenfels.

The recent return of live fire to Hohenfels allows Soldiers to sharpen their skills in urban environments, of which there are now eight, with such realistic features as compound walls, subterranean levels and kick-out windows.

Units training at JMTC benefit from the expertise of the range-operations staff, which works closely with

▼ More than \$300 million is being spent to upgrade existing facilities and build new ones.

commanders to develop the training scenarios they want.

“They do everything from acquainting unit reps with ranges and targetry to custom designing training so it meets units’ needs. They’re able to take a plan on paper and turn it into reality,” Mills said, adding that imagination is the only limit to the types of training units can be offered — provided money and time are available.

“Early on, we knew that units wanted to integrate vehicles into IED scenes. So about three months ago we linked unit reps up with our environmental and safety folks to ensure the incoming units could meet the standards — that fluids, glass and mirrors were removed, and so on,” Mills said.

The preplanning was noticed by PV2 David Warnock of the 25th Infantry Division.

“I’ve been impressed with how much effort has been put into our

▲ Long known for an emphasis on tank gunnery, the training area now lets units qualify on a range of weapons.

training, from the mannequins to vehicles concealing IEDs. They’ve gone to great lengths to make it real for us,” he said.

Privates such as Warnock are often units’ target audience during JMRC rotations, said MAJ Scott Nelson, a battalion operations officer who worked alongside range-support teams to develop scenarios that would prepare Soldiers who’d never before seen combat.

“Our goal was to create an “Epcot Center” of Iraq or Afghanistan, so Soldiers couldn’t differentiate between what was real and what wasn’t,” said Nelson.

New Facilities

Cranes and scaffolding crowd the landscape at Grafenwöhr as construc-





NCO Training at Graf

THE Warrior Leader Course at Grafenwöhr isn't just for U.S. Soldiers. Budding NCOs from coalition forces also get the chance to discover what it takes to be a leader.

"Other nations come to us asking how to form an NCO corps as strong as the Army's," said SGM Antonio Reyes, deputy commander for the 7th Army NCO Academy.

The academy has hosted soldiers from nearly 30 nations. Through the help of interpreters, foreign students learn such skills as counseling and leading patrols. They also get the chance to flex their leadership abilities by taking on squad- and platoon-leader roles.

"We've gone out of our way to make this successful," said SFC Leigh Perry, chief of training.

Many foreign students have returned home to establish their own NCO academies, Perry added. And some of those students are now commandants for their own academies.

The integration of foreign soldiers also benefits U.S. Soldiers, who may eventually find themselves working alongside coalition forces in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

"These are our allies and we've got to build that relationship into our Soldiers. Coalition

forces may only have a platoon on the ground, but they're attached to a U.S. element," said Reyes. "When they go out on patrol or do battle operations, it might be an international officer or NCO they're coordinating with. Since we fight as a coalition, we should train as a coalition."

Perry has seen four rotations of Polish soldiers go through the academy, and she said she has seen a transformation.

"The more of them who come here, the more you can see they're adapting to the way we do things. Their NCOs are taking what they learn back and sharing it with fellow soldiers," she said. — *Beth Reece*




▶ A Russian soldier debates a battle drill with Soldiers at the 7th Army NCO Academy.

tion crews build new facilities that will turn the post into a modern town in upcoming years. Additions will include:

- Europe's largest Army post exchange and commissary;
- A new housing area that when completed will include more than 800 new family housing units, a school, a chapel, a childcare center, a shopette

and a gas station;

- Modern single-Soldier barracks;
- New fitness center;
- Leading-edge ranges;
- New motor pools, headquarters facilities and office complexes;
- New roads;
- Expanded medical and dental facility; and
- New hotel.

Newcomers to Grafenwöhr can also take advantage of the post's proximity to various European vacation spots. Grafenwöhr is three hours from Berlin, three hours from the Alps, an hour from Nürnberg and Regensburg, and two hours from Prague. 



For more on what's happening in U.S. Army, Europe, visit www.hqusareur.army.mil.



Fostering Cooperation

Story and Photos by Heike Hasenauer

GUATEMALA experienced civil war for decades until 1996, and because of atrocities its military once committed against its own people it suffered U.S. sanctions that affected the education, training and financing of its military, said COL Linda Gould, commander of U.S. Military Group, Guatemala.

The MILGROUP includes three U.S. service members. They help plan exercises, distribute money from the United States that's earmarked for training and educating Guatemalan military personnel, and secure slots for Guatemalan soldiers to train at U.S. military schools, among other duties [see related story].

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▼ An officer of El Salvador's army reviews taskings for members of his exercise cell. PKO North 2006 involved some 450 participants from 22 countries.



on in Latin America



▲ Guatemala's capital, Guatemala City, was the site of Peacekeeping Operation North 2006, a computer-based war game.



USARSO's Myriad Missions

Story by Heike Hasenauer

Long known for its humanitarian and drug-interdiction work throughout Latin America, U.S. Army, South, continues to perform vital missions in Latin America from its home at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The humanitarian-aid projects the U.S. military continues to conduct in Latin America are as critical today as ever, said LTC Andres Ortegon, a command spokesman.

Exercise Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias in

Honduras helps pave the way for multinational relief following natural disasters, he said, by bringing government and nongovernmental organizations together — before a disaster strikes — to draw up plans.

Peacekeeping exercises, such as those in Guatemala and Peru in June and July, respectively, are also a USARSO priority.

That's because "there's a growing threat in Latin America," Ortegon said. "Everybody says 'drugs,' but it's drugs and gangs. We believe there are more than 100,000 gang members in Central America, and gangs are said to be cashing in on bounties offered to them by people who smuggle human beings."

Add to that the drug trade, fragile governments and poor economies in which many people barely have life's necessities, and the doors are open for coercion and corruption.

USARSO works daily to help the people and governments of the Caribbean and Latin

(Continued on pg. 18)

◀ SSG Brian Abbott of the Arkansas-based 94th Combat Support Hospital gives a dose of medicine to a child during a medical-readiness training exercise in Poptun, Guatemala.



Kaye Richey



Continued from pg. 14

Bordering Mexico and El Salvador, Guatemala sits in a real-world hotbed of smuggling operations that involve drugs, weapons and even people. Much of the contraband crosses Guatemala en route to Mexico, where it continues its journey into the United States, according to U.S. State Department reports.

Peacekeeping Operation North 2006, a computer-generated war game held recently at a convention center in Guatemala City, combined many of the region's real-world problems to create a realistic training scenario in-

volving several hundred computer simulations from some 800 available in a scenario database, said Roger Astin, U.S. Army, South, scenario manager.

Based at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, USARSO plans and executes PKO North and other exercises in Latin America and the Caribbean as the Army component of the Florida-based U.S. Southern Command.

PKO North has been conducted in various



◀ LTC Andres Ortegon, a USARSO public affairs officer, discusses details of PKO North 2006 with a commando from the Guatemalan army.

Continued on pg. 19

▼ Soldiers of the Army Reserve's 416th Engineer Company build a school in Jutiapa, Guatemala, as part of a New Horizons humanitarian-assistance exercise.



LTC Matt Greco



▲ Exercise participants were treated to a day-long tour of Antigua, Guatemala's first capital. Here, they tour the ruins of a convent.

America live their lives peacefully by aiding in the improvement of basic infrastructure — by building schools, clinics, wells and community centers, and by conducting medical-readiness exercises that bring doctors, nurses and medicines to villages where people may never have seen a medical professional before, said LTC Gary Robinson, chief of USARSO's Humanitarian & Civic Assistance Division.

Some 5,000 U.S. Soldiers rotate through Central America each year, many of them Reserve and National Guard members performing their annual active-duty training. At any given time, about 400 Soldiers are in the region performing a variety of missions.

USARSO's Soldiers also help train the soldiers of Latin American nations, in efforts to improve the individual country's stability. And there are platoon exchanges between the U.S. and Central American militaries. In April, for example, 37 Soldiers deployed to El Salvador from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., which in turn hosted a

platoon of Salvadoran troops.

In August 2006 USARSO hosted a conference for senior Latin American noncommissioned officers — one of the ways in which USARSO helps bring NCOs from Central America up to the U.S. NCO standard, as per requests from foreign military officials who have long recognized that NCOs in the U.S. military are given much more responsibility, said USARSO G-3 SGM Jose M. Lopez.

The first Latin-American and Caribbean defense forces senior-enlisted conference was held in Texas in 2005, Lopez said.

The four-step soldier-exchange process includes a visit by U.S. NCOs to a particular Latin American nation; a reciprocal visit by that nation's NCOs to a U.S. NCO academy; a return trip to Latin America by U.S. NCOs to determine whether the Latin American NCO school is ready to produce top-notch NCOs; and, finally, completion of the NCO training curriculum.

At the same time USARSO conducts myriad

exercises far from its home station, the command — much like every other command in the Army — is working to transform itself. "We will become a bigger headquarters and will be joint-task-force capable," Ortegon said.

When USARSO becomes Sixth Army, it will be able to better provide administrative and logistical support to U.S. forces in Latin America, as well as be able to conduct operations as a joint task force or joint force land component headquarters, he said. 🇺🇸

► Salvadoran army 1st Sgt. José Hernandez directs a team of 82nd Abn. Div. Soldiers to clear a building during a platoon-exchange training event.





The PKO North 2006 exercise involved some 450 participants from 22 countries.

Continued from pg. 17

Latin American countries annually since 1995 to promote cooperation among the participating nations' military forces — or police forces in those countries with no military forces — and to improve readiness and interoperability, said LTC James Rose, chief of USARSO's Tactical Exercise Division.

◀ In Antigua, a Guatemalan woman in native dress displays a hand-made table runner she hopes to sell to visitors.

USARSO runs three foreign military interaction exercises annually, Rose said. PKO North (Central America and the Caribbean) and PKO South (South America) are based on United Nations peacekeeping operations. Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias is based on a disaster-response/humanitarian-assistance scenario. In 2006 the exercises were held in Guatemala, Peru and Honduras, respectively. *[See related USARSO missions story.]*

Directed by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and sponsored by USSOUTHCOM, the joint- and combined-services, multinational PKO North 2006 exercise involved some 450 participants from 22 countries, as well as representatives from such nongovernmental groups as the American Red Cross and the Organization of American States, and members of the United Nations, including human rights advocates and experts in DDR — disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating former rebel forces into society.

Among U.S. players were special-operations units, National Guard Soldiers from the Maryland-based 220th Military Police Brigade and Alabama's 167th Theater Support Command, and Army Reserve Soldiers from Texas, Puerto Rico and Arkansas.

U.N. police forces were played by actual national police personnel from countries that don't have standing armies, said USARSO scenario officer Astin. Among those countries are Haiti, Grenada, Panama, Costa Rica and the Bahamas.

"We work closely with the U.N. to incorporate recent experiences, lessons





and priorities from actual missions around the world,” said Astin. “That keeps the exercise fresh and relevant. This year, in addition to the usual peacekeeping themes, participants are confronting leadership issues regarding ‘gender mainstreaming,’ womens’ rights and even peacekeeper misconduct. Our scenarios challenge all of the exercise participants to truly ‘think outside the box,’ realizing that not every situation has an immediate resolution based on an existing regulation or manual.”

The exercise co-directors were Guatemalan army Brig. Gen. Carlos Alberto Villagran de Leon and BG José Mayorga, USARSO’s deputy commander for support. As JTF commander, Villagran de Leon was in charge of four sectors, including a remote “cell” located in Coban, about a four-hour drive from Guatemala City. Coban is the site of the Guatemalan Regional Training Center, where four nations are currently each contributing

➤ SGT Ariana Sans of the Maryland-based 220th Military Police Brigade works with another unit Soldier to mark borders and supply routes for the simulation.

a company of soldiers to form a battalion that can respond to crises around the world.

A joint exercise control group interjected training events via e-mail messages, role-players, telephone calls, and simulated radio and TV newscasts into the “game,” prompting “players” to react.

The joint U.S. services’ responses included a fictional maritime interdiction in response to smuggling operations, said Navy Lt. Cdr. Doug Ross.

Players “got more thrown at them here in one day than they would in

▲ The exercise opened with a realistic briefing about the scenario’s “current situation,” and included video footage of real-life events that mirrored elements of the scenario.

four days of a real-life operation,” said Mayorga.

In the exercise scenario, leaders arrived in a fictional country called Boria, a nation whose military forces had disbanded. There was no security force, and the weak republic suffered from endemic corruption. Crime, including drug trafficking and the smuggling of weapons, ammunition,

(Continued on pg. 22)





Boosting Security in Guatemala

Story and Photo by Heike Hasenauer

THE United States has 25 security-cooperation offices in Latin America and the Caribbean. Also called security-assistance offices, the one in Panama is called the Office of Defense Cooperation. In Guatemala it's the U.S. Military Group, Guatemala.

Each serves as a security link to the U.S. military, said COL Linda Gould, commander of the U.S. MILGROUP, Guatemala.

"Much of our focus here is on counter-terrorism and counter-drug operations. What we can do to help the Guatemalans fight terrorism and drugs can only help the United States in the long run," she said.

"To support U.S. Southern Command, we're their eyes, ears and hands in Guatemala, to conduct security assistance and implement the theater-security cooperation plan," said LTC Matthew Greco, an Army section chief at the MILGROUP.

"It means we help set up training that the U.S. military wants to conduct here," Greco said. That includes medical-readiness exercises, which are conducted four or five times annually to train U.S. Reserve Soldiers, "honing their skills in a harsh environment, providing valuable services to the local people, and fostering popular support for the U.S. Department of Defense and its policies."

The MILGROUP also coordinates the shipment of any equipment the U.S. military wants to send to Guatemala, and it's USSOUTHCOM's lead military disaster-response agency whenever there's a natural disaster in the region, such as Hurricane Stan in 2005.

Additionally, the MILGROUP is responsible for setting up training in the United States for members of the Guatemalan military.

The U.S. defense attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala, LTC Edward Bonfoey III, is typically the face of the U.S. military at all state functions, he said. The man he works for, the U.S. ambassador to Guatemala, gets no money for training Guatemala's military or procuring military equipment for its armed forces. That's the MILGROUP's role, Bonfoey said.

Greco interacts each day with senior officials of the Guatemalan army and with people in Guatemala's ministries of the interior, justice and defense.

"I often visit their army installations across the country to assess how the U.S. Army can provide assistance here," Greco said.

"We've become very actively engaged in assisting the Guatemalan government to establish sovereignty along the border with Mexico and other borders where there's a weak or nonexistent government presence, to help them combat illegal migration and trafficking of arms and narcotics," Greco said.

Some 500 tons of cocaine passed over Central America in fiscal year 2005, Greco said, citing a report of the Joint Interagency



▲ The U.S. Military Group, Guatemala, is one of 25 security-cooperation offices the United States has in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Task Force South — the agency in Key West, Fla., responsible for tracking and interdicting cocaine flowing out of Colombia.

The Guatemalan army uses American-built M-113 armored personnel carriers to patrol the borders, Gould said. "We got \$500,000 through the U.S. Military Assistance Program to refurbish the vehicles and make them mission capable."

The United States is also furnishing \$3.2 million from 2005 to 2010 so the Guatemalan army can purchase communications equipment, which will allow border-patrol personnel to immediately report illicit activities, Gould said. Some of the money will pay for spare parts for helicopters and individual soldier equipment.

Portions of the money are released to Guatemala, based on "what they tell us they need," Gould said.

"Strengthening partnerships in democracy is our goal," Bonfoey said. Guatemala suffered a 36-year civil armed conflict that formally ended in 1996.

Over the past few years Guatemala's armed forces have been reduced from some 46,000 to 15,500, said Bonfoey. The country's navy and air force are composed of roughly 1,500 people each, Gould added.

Today, besides the military's participation in U.N. missions — including the recent third rotation of soldiers to the U.N. mission in Congo — the Guatemalan army is much utilized in its own country, protecting its borders.

"The biggest change in the past three years here is the openness of the host nation's armed forces," said Ryan Rowlands, press officer at the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala. "Today, military officials welcome reporters and are happy to show off their facilities and operations." 🇺🇸



(Continued from pg. 20)

gold and diamonds flourished.

The leaders of U.S. military units and those of coalition nations “arrived” ahead of their “troops” and in the aftermath of a fictional typhoon. Civil war raged in another fictional country, neighboring Rogan, and was fueled largely by the Rogan Liberation Army, which smuggled contraband into the country from Boria.

Joint Task Force-Boria, when it stood up, would have to deal with myriad events related to a recently secured peace treaty, ethnic conflict, gender discrimination, human-rights abuses, an arms embargo, black-market sales, gang violence, multinational coordination and cooperation, and disaster response.

Leaders got the heart-jolting situation report at a realistic press briefing, complete with newscasts that included borrowed statements from U.S. officials, including U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice — speaking in reference to some actual event in the past — video clips of smuggling operations and other insurgent activity in the region, and the arrival of U.N. peacekeepers, also taken from a real-world mission.

Also created by USARSO’s audiovisual office, with the help of students majoring in communications at Guatemalan universities, was a press briefing with exercise officials. It was inserted into the presentation for realism and helped to train commanders to speak to the media.

Players prepared for the exercise by familiarizing themselves with numerous exercise documents available — in both English and Spanish — via a Web site. They included U.N. peace-

◀ Two officers from El Salvador take note of the taskings given to their exercise cell during a briefing.



keeping operations publications, field manuals, resolutions and handbooks.

COL Chris Gentry, deputy commander of the 220th MP Bde., said the 15 Soldiers from his brigade headquarters who served as the joint land forces component command — controlling all the land forces in the fictional Boria (about 7,000 notional troops) — were actually doing what they do as a headquarters element.

At the same time USARSO supported the exercise, it trained its own

▼ An exercise official is “grilled” by role-players portraying members of the media. Some of the roleplayers were communications students from universities throughout Guatemala.

Soldiers. For example, SFC John Walker from the USARSO G-3 Plans office was the exercise request-for-information officer. He answered many questions posed by participants and relating to the exercise scenario.

Walker was still reminiscing about an exercise highlight the night before the exercise began — a cultural-day event sponsored by the Guatemalan army, which included a tour to Antigua, the first capital of Guatemala, dinner and a presentation of regional dances by costumed dancers at Antigua’s cultural center.

“How many people get to mingle with the local people the way we did last night and share a part of their

culture?” Walker asked.

“Events like this one build friendship, trust, respect, cooperation, and familiarity with the land and its people,” he said.

USARSO is responsible for helping maintain peace in all of Central and South America, and for supporting JTF-Guantanamo Bay operations in Cuba.

Eleven Latin-American nations are currently involved in peacekeeping operations around the world, said Rose. Brazil, for example, is in charge of operations in Haiti.

The more other nations participate in operations such as these, the more it helps reduce the burden on the United States, he said. ■



A lot of Army Bull ... Riding

Story by Mary Kate Chambers

Mike Lee is riding high. Lee won the Professional Bull Riders world championship in 2004, and the Army-sponsored rider is poised for another title this fall.

"I have had a great year so far," said Lee. "I am currently sitting third in the world and ready to make a move toward another world title."

Before he can claim that championship, he has to compete at the U.S. Army Invitational Sept. 29-30 in Reading, Pa., where to do well he'll have to rely on all of the qualities that Soldiers and bull riders share.

Elements of the Warrior Ethos like "place the mission first" and "never quit," as well as the Army Values, are as fitting for the Army-sponsored bull

riders as they are for Soldiers, said Tom Tiernan, chief of outreach and event marketing for Army Accessions Command. And the same can be said of PBR fans, who tend to be strong supporters of the military.

"PBR is a great partner for the Army, because its goals and objectives nicely parallel with what the Army's trying to do," Tiernan said.

Lee, one of three Army-sponsored bull riders, spends time speaking on behalf of the Army when he's not training for an event.

"I have had the opportunity to meet many veterans and young men and women who are in the Army as I travel throughout the United States," he said. "The support I have received being a member of the Army team

has been really great."

The Army Invitational will feature military pageantry, said Tiernan, incorporating The Army Chorus and assets from the Military District of Washington. Nearby recruiters also will attend with future Soldiers, who will be sworn in at the event, and interactive Army displays will help to generate applicants.

Lee said he'd like to see an Army crowd at his events.

"Hopefully, some of the Soldiers will have a chance to catch a PBR event when it comes to their towns," he said.

And Tiernan emphasized the dedication of the Army-sponsored athletes.

Mary Kate Chambers works in the U.S. Army Recruiting Command Public Affairs Office

OLN

The Army Invitational in Reading, Pa., will be broadcast on the OLN network Sept. 30, and the championship round will air on the Fox network Oct. 1. Check your local listings.



Bull Riding 101

At each two-day bull-riding event, the top 45 riders are randomly computer-matched with bulls, a process called a draw. Riders are assigned a bull for each night. After the second ride on the second night, the top 15 riders advance to a third ride. The rider with the highest three-ride point total is the overall event winner.

Riders earn points based on their ride and the performance of the bull — up to 50 points can be awarded for each. Judges watch for a rider to match the moves of the bull, and keep control and good body position. A rider must stay on the bull while riding with one hand. Points for the bull's performance are based on how difficult he is to ride. Speed and power are among the factors.

The total score possible for a ride is 100 points. Two judges each distribute 50 points, and the two scores are added together. — *Professional Bull Riders*

“These guys want to represent the Army. And it's not just for the money,” he said. “It's for the pride of being able to represent the Army. That really shows when they do things for the Army, their pride and having “ARMY” on their chests.” 🇺🇸



To learn more about Professional Bull Riders, visit <http://www.pbrnow.com> or visit www.goarmy.com/events/rodeo

➤ Army bull rider Mike Lee tries his best to stay atop a bull named Big Show during the U.S. Army Invitational bull-riding event April 17. Lee hung on to Big Show for a full eight seconds, scoring 84.5 out of 100 points.

◀ Lee (at far left) is joined by fellow Army-sponsored riders James White and Jaron Nunnemaker after the April 17 event.



SPC Curt Cashour



NEARLY six years ago, Military District of Washington Engineer Company Soldiers rescued and extracted victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon.

The MDW Engr. Co. — which belongs to the 12th Aviation Battalion and is based at Fort Belvoir, Va. — is still tasked with rescuing, evacuating and recovering anyone trapped in a federal building within the National Capital Region. The company's Soldiers recently polished the necessary skills during the 12th annual Rescue Challenge, a joint, interagency, technical-rescue training competition undertaken with members of several county



▲ SPC Travis Mayhew of the Military District of Washington Engineer Company descends from a high-rise building with a rescued "victim" during Rescue Challenge 2006.

► Members of the MDW Engr. Co. and civilian technical-rescue teams enter West Virginia's Memorial Tunnel, part of the Center for National Response training facility in Charleston, W. Va.



MDW's

Rescue

Story and Photos by Don Wagner



Engineers





fire departments in northern Virginia.

Challenging Scenarios

The competition's eight rescue and extraction scenarios included confined-space rescues, sites with limited access or limited entrance, and vertical rescues that included the use of ropes and pulleys to retrieve people from high elevations.

According to the MDW Engr. Co.'s 1LT Travis Nichols, the scenarios included the rescue of an "injured" worker at the bottom of a 20-foot trench. The worker was beneath a metal sheet that had fallen on him and crushed his legs. Rescuers secured the trench area and its walls to prevent further collapse, dug the worker out and loaded him on a stretcher, then used ropes to hoist him to safety.

In an obstacle course scenario, an 800-pound concrete slab was moved over various obstacles at an abandoned prison compound. A rescue team had to first enter the compound by climbing a fence and rappelling from a guard tower before rescuers could move the concrete through the remaining obstacles.

A shoring scenario confronted the rescuers with various obstacles made of reinforced concrete and wood — in a maze filled with abandoned furniture and appliances — that had to be breached so rescuers could find the victim. Once inside the building, the rescue teams constructed an internal shore to stabilize the "collapsed" structure.

In another scenario, a rollback dumpster had fallen from a tractor-

trailer. The dumpster, which contained concrete and large tree stumps, had fallen on a car, crushing it and trapping two simulated victims inside. Rescuers removed the dumpster, stabilized its contents and cut through the vehicle to remove the victims.

On another day, a role-player portraying a diabetic window washer "collapsed" on a small platform suspended on the side of a 30-story building in Rosslyn, Va. Rescuers used what's called a "high-angle rope rescue" to lower the victim's stretcher and an "escort" some 600 feet from the roof to a waiting ambulance.

Later that day, there was a rescue at the bottom of a 100-foot subway shaft. One team rappelled 100 feet down the shaft, found the victim, evaluated his status and "packaged him for movement." Another team created the rope-haul system to remove the victim from the shaft.

"In rescue operations, it is vital to

plan several steps ahead to speed the overall operation," Nichols said.

Meanwhile, at other locations, other members of the MDW Engr. Co. operated two training lanes. In one, a helicopter with a casualty inside was suspended from a bridge. The rescue teams had to locate the helicopter, lower a rescuer down to the casualty and hoist him back up.

In addition, rescue teams were sent to locate victims in an underground training facility consisting of culvert pipes as small as 18 inches in diameter and a multi-level "rat trap." Smoke was added to this confined-space facility to decrease the rescuers' visibility.

"Overall, our team did well, considering we had a lot of inexperienced Soldiers participating," Nichols said. "Rescue Challenge is an excellent training event that enables us to learn from various experts in the technical-rescue field. This event provided us with an outside evaluation and helped

◀ His "rescued victim" dangling below him, an MDW Engr. Co. Soldier descends a wall during the technical-rescue training competition.

▶ Soldiers prepare to remove an "injured motorist" from his wrecked car during the competition, which drew military and civilian teams from throughout northern Virginia.



As Real as It Gets

ABOUT 60 MDW Engineer Company Soldiers, along with 18 Army and civilian firefighters and Arlington County, Va., rescue teams, recently ventured into a dark, smoke-filled underground tunnel to hone their rescue skills.

The teams were training together inside West Virginia's 2,800-foot, two-lane Memorial Tunnel. The tunnel is the site of the National Guard Bureau's Center for National Response's one-of-a-kind training facility, located about 28 miles southeast of Charleston, W. Va.

Soldiers and firefighters participated in various scenarios, including automobile-accident extractions, confined-space rescues, underground-breach rescues and weapons-of-mass-destruction rescues.

A Unique Facility

The Memorial Tunnel was opened in 1954 as part of the West Virginia turnpike. It was closed in 1987, and Interstate 64/77 now runs adjacent to the tunnel.

Recognizing the need for additional WMD training, Congress in 1997 required the Department of Defense to establish a facility for military first responders. In 1999 DOD initiated the development of a training center in the more than 79,000 square

feet of highway tunnel to train local-, state-, federal- and military-response units. Work began in 2000 to convert the tunnel complex into the CNR, an exercise facility for WMD, consequence management and counterterrorism. Sets were constructed within the tunnel, including a post-blast rubble area, a subway station, fictitious "illicit" drug laboratories, a confined-space training area and a highway-incident scene.

The CNR is managed by the West Virginia National Guard as part of the Joint Interagency Training Center-East.

"This facility is the only place that offers this kind of environment for first responders," said Joe Early, the CNR's director of training. "The tunnel is ideal for consequence-and-crisis management and emergency-response training, and provides a realistic environment in which emergency-response teams can readily practice techniques designed to mitigate the effects of a WMD incident in a tunnel or on a train."

The tunnel also provides excellent training on hazardous-material response, illicit chemical-biological-drug-laboratory entry and containment, underground search and rescue, counter-terrorist tactics and hostage rescue, tailored to each organization's specific training requirements. — *Don Wagner*

us to improve mission readiness."

"The teams compete to learn and to improve their technical skills," said COL Steward E. Remaly, commander of the MDW Air Operations Group, the 12th Avn. Bn.'s headquarters and thus the organization that "owns" the engineer company. "Such training is an integral part of training and readiness in relation to the war on terror."

"The competition honed our skills by placing Soldiers in challenging situations and allowing them to build relationships with the partners they'll work with in an actual emergency situation," said CPT Frank Tedeschi, commander of the MDW Engr. Co.

To rescue people in damaged or collapsed structures, engineers must first find a safe entry point and shore up the entry area to prevent a further collapse. To do this, they must be proficient in using jackhammers, chain saws and torch cutting equipment. They must also know how to take precautions against explosions, such as those from slow burns or cuts in electrical wires.

"Everything we do is as a part of

the joint interagency team," Tedeschi said. "Our Soldiers are trained and ready to execute missions with our partners from state and local jurisdictions, as well as federal agencies and the other armed services."

Specialized Soldiers


The MDW Engr. Co.'s members are volunteers from different engineering career fields, and they usually join the unit with no knowledge of rescue operations. Whatever their background and experience, all unit members complete a month-long in-house certification three to four times a year to remain rescue-qualified.

The Soldiers train several times a year with local and federal agencies and other technical rescue teams, including military teams and representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to develop and maintain the most advanced skills. Usually there are two big events, Rescue Challenge, in May, and Capital Shield, in November.

"The real challenge we face is training our Soldiers and maintaining

their proficiency, since they are here for only two to three years," Tedeschi said. "The first responders we face in this competition average more than 10 years of experience in technical-rescue.

The MDW Engr. Co. maintains an initial response readiness team of eight to 12 engineers on constant standby, ready to deploy by air within two hours. The rest of the team, with more manpower and equipment, can deploy by ground within three hours. In addition to its specialized rescue equipment the company also has many of the same tools as a standard combat-engineer company, including bulldozers, dump trucks, small and large trucks, small-emplacement excavators, hydraulic excavators and bucket loaders.

"After watching our team during this four-day competition, I am confident that we can respond in any situation," said unit member SPC Jeremy King. 

► Engr. Co. members stabilize a simulated casualty before attempting to move him.





Same Miss

▲ During a USO tour to Kuwait, participant Bruce Willis spoke with deployed troops at several camps.



Rep. Michael Conway and reporter Lee-ann Tweeden stuffed care packages.



Wayne Newton was among celebrities who entertained after Hurricane Katrina.



Gary Sinise helps welcome 4th Infantry Division troops home to Fort Hood, Texas.

ion, New

Methods

Story by SSG Julie Nicolov



THE acronym “USO” often conjures visions of Dinah Shore singing for Soldiers during World War II, or Marilyn Monroe signing autographs in Korea or Bob Hope telling jokes to troops in Vietnam.

Today, representatives of United Service Organizations are just as dedicated to bringing a bit of home to deployed troops in 2006 as they were in 1941.

“It’s the same mission we’ve had for 65 years,” said John Hanson, senior vice president for marketing and communications at USO’s headquarters. “We do our best to connect the American public to Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and members of the Coast Guard around the world.”

In 1941, after President Franklin D. Roosevelt requested recreation facilities for troops who were on leave, the Salvation Army, Young Men’s Christian Association, Young Women’s Christian Association, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board coordinated efforts and established the USO.

At the USO’s peak in 1944 there were more than 3,000 centers. Troops could go to the USO for dances, a quiet place to write letters to loved ones, or to enjoy coffee and donuts.

Currently, there are 125 USO centers worldwide, including one in Afghanistan and three in Kuwait.

“We’re eager to put one in Iraq, but it’s a logistical thing we haven’t figured out yet,” Hanson said.

The centers still serve as “homes away from home,” as they did during World War II, but many of the methods of providing a touch of home have changed.

“In World War II and during the Korean War there were letter-

SSG Julie Nicolov works in the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs at the Pentagon.



Dave Glatley

▶ Toby Keith entertains service members during a USO tour stop in Germany. Keith later moved on to Iraq.

writing stations,” Hanson said. “Today, we provide free Internet service and offer phone cards.”

Keeping troops in touch with their families has long been a USO priority.

“We do exactly what we’ve always done,” said Hanson. “We just do it a whole lot faster.”

The USO continues the celebrity-tour tradition. Entertainers such as Henry Rollins, Chely Wright, Al Franken, Drew Carey and Gary Sinise have picked up where Bob Hope left off.

“I don’t think three letters together ever meant so much as far as comfort,” said award-winning country music artist Wright.

Wright, whose father, grandfather and brother have all served in the military, was one of the first celebrities to entertain troops in Iraq, joining a USO tour in May 2003.

The group, which also included Kid Rock and John Stamos and Rebecca Romijn Stamos, was prepared for a “meet and greet” with troops at the Baghdad International Airport.

When Soldiers learned of the visit, they set up an impromptu stage. Thousands gathered in a stuffy aircraft hangar for the show. Even though

they didn’t have a set prepared, the performers didn’t let them down.

“It wouldn’t have mattered if I sang ‘Mary Had a Little Lamb,’” Wright said. “They were just so grateful. If I get to do that for one person, it’s worth the 16 hours it took to get there.”

Wright has performed for troops overseas every year since 1999.

“It makes me feel like I’m putting something back into the universe,” Wright said. “I love it, love it, love it.”

Even when problems arise, performers on the USO tours do their best to entertain the troops.

“We never say, ‘Sorry, we weren’t expecting to do a show,’” Hanson said.

In 2003, Neal McCoy, Wayne Newton, Paul Rodriguez and the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders entertained the troops at Tallil Air Base. Unfortunately, McCoy didn’t have a guitar.

“Neal came out and said, ‘I don’t have a guitar,’ and a ser-

vice member handed one to him. The Soldier came up on stage and played his own composition and accompanied Neal. A couple of weeks later, the Soldier was killed,” Hanson said.

According to the Soldier’s family, that performance had been a great boost to his morale.

“He had been e-mailing Neal, and Neal had been e-mailing the kid’s mom, and she said, ‘You made his life there so much better,’” Hanson said.

Bringing a little hope or a smile to the troops is exactly what the USO is all about, Hanson said.

Athletes have also turned out to give their support to the troops.

Since 1965 the National Football League has worked with the USO to visit troops all over the world. The first group of NFL athletes included four future hall-of-famers: Sam Huff, Johnny Unitas, Frank Gifford and Willie Davis. More recently, the NFL donated \$250,000 to build a USO center at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, in memory of Arizona Cardinals safety and Army ranger Pat Tillman.

Athletes from the National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball, NASCAR and other sports regularly visit deployed troops to sign autographs and raise spirits.



Mike Theller

▶ A USO volunteer at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport hands out care packages to Soldiers returning to Iraq after R&R.



To learn more about USO programs, how to become a volunteer or make donations, visit www.uso.org

The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders have gone on more USO tours than any other entertainment group. For 27 years, the squad has spent Christmas with troops deployed to Korea.

According to Hanson, many of the athletes and entertainers wish they could stay longer or do more.

"It's tough leaving people behind, and you just hope that you left them feeling a little better than you found them," Hanson said.

The USO is also dedicated to helping troops stateside. Many military bases and airports have USO lounges where troops can kick back and relax.

"Seeing a friendly face is as much of a morale booster as anything else," said Barbara Simpson, volunteer coordinator at the USO lounge at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C. "If you're a young 18-year-old and the first time you left home was to go to basic training and then you come here to D.C., I would think it's pretty intimidating to try to figure out what to do next."

The USO is always available in a crisis. After Sept. 11, 2001, Ronald Reagan National Airport temporarily shut down. The USO stayed open, but had very few visitors.

"I sat here for six weeks and nobody came in," Simpson said. "I thought, 'I could be spending my volunteer time somewhere else. Then, someone came needing help. We got him on his way to wherever he was going. That made it all worthwhile.'"

Other times, the USO is the busiest place in the airport.

"Eighteen Marines stopped by on their way to the U.S. Marine Corps Honor Guard," Simpson recalled. "Some had to iron their uniforms, except they didn't really know how to iron, so I was giving ironing lessons. That was a fun day."

Because not everyone has access to a USO, the USO recently launched

its Mobile USO Program. Three four-wheel drive, all-terrain buses rolled out to training sites.

"It's an experiment we've never tried," said Hanson, whose goal is to make today's troops as comfortable as he and his father felt in USO centers during their time in Vietnam and World War II, respectively.

"My dad said, 'If you're ever in trouble, if you ever need anything, go to the USO,'" Hanson said.

Another way that the USO reaches out to the troops is through Operation Care Package. Each month, the USO sends 20,000 to 40,000 care packages filled with toiletries, beef jerky, playing cards and other requested items to the troops.

"It's a touch of home," said Cheryl Richards, a volunteer for USO of Metropolitan Washington, Inc. "It's so important to let them know that they're thought of."

Chad Best, Operation Care Package's program manager, was serving in Iraq in 2003 when he received his first USO care package.

"It was amazing that I received something from someone I didn't even know," Best said.

The USO also sponsors programs such as Operation Mail Call, Operation Phone Home and Gifts from the Front. Through monetary donations to USO, supporters can provide troops and family members with prepaid greeting cards, prepaid calling cards and gift certificates. Cards and gift certificates are distributed at USO centers worldwide.

At select USO centers troops can also take part in United Through Reading. Volunteers record troops reading children's books and then send the book and DVD to their kids. When a Soldier deploys, his child can watch the DVD while reading the book.

Being away from home during the holidays can be especially rough. So




▲ (Top) New England Patriots linebacker Larry Izzo poses with Camp Victory commander LTC Lawrence Smith, who's wearing two of Izzo's Super Bowl rings. (Above) Impressionist Rich Little entertains service members in Germany in December 2005.

each USO center has its own holiday program, said Tiane Harrison, a communications specialist at USO headquarters.

The USO is a private, nonprofit organization that is funded by more than a million individual donors.

"Microsoft came to us and said, 'What if we give you X-box Live systems for every USO center?' That means you can play an X-box football game in Kuwait with someone in Iowa and talk to them while you're doing it. It's a great thing," Hanson said.

While 20 percent of donations go to entertainment, the rest goes to the every day support provided at USO centers worldwide. 



▲ Engineers of H Troop, 5th Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, detonate mines during live-fire breach training at Yakima.

➤ Artillerymen adjust their sights during training at Yakima, which is one of the last Army training areas that allows large-caliber weapons to be fired to their maximum effective ranges.

A WAKENING to the rumble of 155mm howitzers in barren, mountainous steppes reminiscent of Southwest Asia is a rite of passage observed for decades by Soldiers from Fort Lewis, Wash., and throughout the western United States. But today, battling the high desert elements of Washington's Yakima Training Center has taken on new meaning as an integral part of units' preparation for combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Located on a hilly, sparse tract of land peppered with native shrubs in central Washington, YTC allows U.S. service members and coalition partners the opportunity to train in an environment similar to what they will encounter in the war on terrorism.

"YTC is truly the premier training center in the Northwest that provides training venues, ranges and all necessary support for all types of units," said LTC Rick Nohmer,

SPC Leah Burton is assigned to the 28th Public Affairs Detachment.

Training at



Yakima

Story by SPC Leah R. Burton



▲ Soldiers from the 4th Section, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, conduct a crew drill before a live-fire mission at Yakima.

YTC's commander.

Born of necessity just before World War II, the U.S. government in 1941 acquired 160,000 acres from Yakima, Wash.-area landowners to establish Yakima Anti-Aircraft Artillery Range on Umtanum Ridge. The initial camp, situated 13 miles northeast of the present cantonment area was outfitted with temporary buildings.

From 1942 to 1943, a second camp, Yakima Firing Center, was established at the present location. It was primarily used by artillery, infantry, engineer, Reserve and National Guard units based in the Pacific Northwest.

Use of the land was greatly reduced following the end of World War II, and in 1947 some 60,000 acres were returned to the previous owners. By 1951, however, the Army had purchased 265,000 acres of the land

for \$3.3 million, realizing its value as a training site.

In 1995 the installation annexed another 63,000 acres, bringing YTC to its current size of 511 square miles.

"We are one of the only places left in the Army where you can put 10,000 Soldiers in the field and they won't

bump into each other," Nohmer said. "This is one of the only installations where we can fire all weapon systems at their maximum effective range, with the exception of the Patriot missile."

American forces are not the sole beneficiaries of Yakima's massive training area.

"The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces come here every year in September. They bring in all their own equipment and hundreds of soldiers to conduct training," Nohmer said. Coalition partners from allied countries also train at YTC, as do members of the other U.S. services.

YTC boasts two airfields, four drop zones and a state-of-the-art multi-purpose range complex.

Train Like You fight

Given the changing face of war

◀ Role-players add a significant level of realism to the training at Yakima. Here, a Soldier guards a suspected "insurgent" at a checkpoint.



SPC Abel Trevino



“We’re out in the middle of no man’s land, and this is a ghost town. All they can focus on is training, training, training.”

and the emphasis on the global war on terrorism, the availability of realistic, up-to-date training scenarios is invaluable to the survival of American Soldiers. Paramount to the YTC training experience is the stress of an unforgiving, uncomfortable operating environment — one of the undeniable calling cards of combat on foreign soil.

“It’s kind of nice to be 176.3 miles from the ‘flagpole,’ so folks come out here to focus on training. It’s worked out very well,” Nohmer said. Desolation adds to the training experience, because it offers units the ability to train without the distractions of their normal surroundings.

“If you look around here, you don’t see anything but Yakima. You have no distractions,” said 2LT Curtis Thomas, a platoon leader in Troop T, 5th Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment. “We’re out in the middle of no man’s land, and this is a ghost town. All they can focus on is training, training, training.”

Many Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans have commented on the similarities between Yakima and the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

“We have to deal with the ele-

ments. There’s a lot of dust, and it’s cold out here, so we’re getting the chance to test out our equipment here in the elements, as opposed to in a motor pool somewhere,” said CPT Jonathan Stafford, commander of Headquarters and HQs. Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regt.

“Here at Yakima, the desert environment is very helpful to us. Drivers, for example, can train to drive in sandy conditions similar to those in Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Stafford.

The nature of the training center forces units to use the life-sustaining equipment organic to their organizations. Modern conveniences cease to exist, and Soldiers quickly realize that what they didn’t bring, they simply won’t have access to.

“Once you go out six miles up Cold Creek Road here, power stops,” Nohmer said. “There’s no power out on the installation. What that forces them to do is use what they have. It

means they have to bring their generators and whatever else they would need to survive on a daily basis. It means they have to set up their communications packages to support them during their deployment.”

The units are not entirely helpless, however. They can request portable chemical toilets, field showers and laundry points by coordinating in advance through Yakima’s Directorate of Public Works.

Fire in the Hole

Long-range weapon systems are still among YTC’s key beneficiaries. One unit profiting from its size is the 5th Bn., 5th ADA Regt., a unit that recently moved from South Korea’s 2nd Infantry Division to join Fort Lewis’ 555th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

As part of the Army’s restructuring, 5/5 ADA has pulled Soldiers from other units and has taken in dozens of recent initial-entry training gradu-

Jason Kaye



➤ A machine-gunner lays down suppressive fire while Stryker wheeled fighting vehicles advance toward an “enemy” position.





◀ Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry, prepare to fire live rounds from their Stryker MCV-B vehicle.

ates. These new Soldiers and new units need practice in realistic training scenarios.

“Since re-forming the battalion, we’ve had a lot of new Soldiers come in, so this is actually their first time out in the field. We’ve had a chance to teach them a lot of Soldier skills to survive in the field,” Stafford said.

Additionally, the unit recently restructured from using Bradley Linebackers to Avengers, and this was the Soldiers’ first opportunity to qualify on the Avengers’ weapon systems. The Avenger is equipped with eight Stinger missiles in two turret-mounted missile launchers, a .50-caliber machine gun, a sensor package with a forward-looking infrared receiver and a laser range finder.

“This is the only place in the Northwest for us to fire a Stinger missile. The wide open terrain here allows us to do that, which is a definite benefit of the YTC,” Stafford said.

Take No Prisoners

With units abroad battling insurgents in towns and villages, troops are training heavily in simulated urban environments, learning room-clearing techniques and maneuvering skills involving armed and unarmed civilians on the battlefield.

YTC provides venues for both

room-clearing and military-operations-on-urban-terrain training in the form of a 360-degree “shoot house” and an urban-assault course.

The shoot house offers multiple rooms, all with doors to breach. Each room is lined with a substance called Dura block, “basically shredded tires about a foot and half thick, so you can actually shoot live rounds inside the facility,” said Kevin Cameron, urban-assault course and shoot house information-systems technician.

Situated throughout the building are life-sized mannequins equipped with sensors. When they take a “mortal” hit, they fall. They are also outfitted with non-mortal sensors that technicians program to take multiple hits before falling. Cameras are located in every room to record the training.

Another valuable feature of the shoot house is a motion sensor that picks up the Soldier as soon as he enters the room and records his reaction time between entering the room and firing the first round.

The urban-assault course is another new feature at Yakima, and it comes complete with its own “insurgents.”

The 18-building complex with multiple stories boasts a live-fire capability and an underground sewer system that winds under a small city block. It’s used for units that need to hone their urban-operations techniques, Nohmer said.

Maneuvering through the streets and among the buildings with “local nationals” in the area makes for an

unpredictable situation and forces Soldiers and leaders to analyze scenarios and react quickly, while avoiding collateral damage.

“I learned how to be more reactive, how to trust my guys, how to keep my eyes open, look around and communicate with the locals,” said PFC Daniel Soto, a 5/2 crewmember.

Remaining Relevant and Ready

A major tenet of the YTC training philosophy is applying lessons learned in-theater to keep training in line with current conflicts.

“One of the things that the Army’s done really well since the start of the war on terror is taking lessons learned from downrange and incorporating them into unit training,” Nohmer said. Lessons learned are translated into tactics, techniques and procedures, or emerging doctrine, and are practiced at places like YTC.

The result of this approach to training is evident in the construction of the shoot house, the urban-assault course, and plans to construct other facilities at YTC by October 2011. Those include converting the northern portion of the central-impact area into a 16-kilometer-by-12-kilometer free-maneuver “box” that can accommodate a battalion-sized element or larger for combined-arms operations.

“It’ll consist of an aerial gunnery range, a multi-purpose training range and a digitized multi-purpose range complex that contains a battle-assault course,” Nohmer said. 📌

YTC provides venues for both room-clearing and military-operations-on-urban-terrain training in the form of a 360-degree “shoot house” and an urban-assault course.

Unified

Quest 2006

**Story and Photos by
Heike Hasenauer**

AT UNIFIED Quest 2006, the fourth major war game co-sponsored by U.S. Joint Forces Command and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command as part of the Army's Future Warfare Study, there were no intricately decorated lead armies defending terrain-board lands.

It was an elaborate, extremely complex "talking" game, said TRADOC spokesman MAJ Mark Van Hout.

The capstone event of a yearlong study of future warfare — which was composed of a series of smaller war games, workshops and planning exercises — brought some 300 senior active-duty military personnel and retirees from the joint services and allied nations, and government civilian employees, contractors and interagency representatives together at Collins Hall, at the home of the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Participants focused on joint operations and irregular warfare,

strategic agility, homeland defense and multinational and nongovernmental operations, among other things.

Teams of players represented joint interagency and multinational forces, as well as adversaries. In the Multinational/Interagency-Group cell, which included real-life officials from the U.S. State and Justice departments, and others, players looked at how to develop greater cohesion between military and civilian organizations, among them economic, humanitarian and energy coalitions.

They had to deal with "wicked problems," said BG Huba Wass De Czege (Ret.), a senior mentor for one of the exercise groups.

"Senior commanders are recognizing the need for exercises like

this," De Czege said, "where you find out that what you learn in one place doesn't necessarily apply in another."

If you lay out all the conflicts in which the United States has been involved — from Vietnam up through Desert Storm — "the environments were pretty stable, compared to those we find ourselves in today," he said.

At UQ06, three separate "games" — referred to as cases A, B and C — were played from "cells" throughout Collins Hall and from an operations cell at a USJFC facility in Suffolk, Va.

The scenario revolved around a fictitious country known as "Redland." Coalition forces, in the year 2017, were located in the divided country to assist a struggling government. And all kinds of "junk," as one player called events, was thrown into the pot of problems to be solved, said Navy Cdr. Jim Anderson, a JFC spokesman.

While various situations played out in Redland, tensions simmered — and some reached the boiling point — in various parts of the world. Political unrest affected China, Korea, Taiwan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and regions of Africa and Latin America.

As players planned responses in

◀ Red team commander Gary Phillips briefs his team on some of the "enemy" strategies they might encounter during the course of the exercise.





▲ Unified Quest 2006 involved three “games” — referred to as cases A, B and C — played from cells throughout Collins Hall and in Suffolk, Va.

anticipation of events and reacted to situations at hand, streams of new challenges had to be addressed. Everything from major natural disasters to terrorist events, the threat of war between nations and a nuclear missile on the loose entered the mix, challenging commanders to exploit all the assets available to a coalition.

“Among the questions we want to answer,” said MG David Fastabend, deputy director of the Army Capabilities and Integration Center, “are, ‘What’s the training model’s ability to respond to a lot of unexpected crises?’ And ‘How can we make forces available, if they’re not available to us?’”

“We’re interested in the interagency and multinational areas,” added Bud Hay, JFC’s director of concept development. “There’s nothing different in this war game as far as joint forces goes, except that we’re trying to focus more on interoperability.”


“At the top of the list of what we hope to get out of this exercise are insights into protracted, irregular warfare, and the difference between conventional and irregular warfare,” said Bill Rittenhouse, chief of TRADOC’s War-Gaming Division.

“We want to learn what this notion of protracted warfare means for us and the services in the future, in situations where the adversary doesn’t present himself, there is no rapid, decisive defeat, and U.S. military forces, as part of a coalition, must work toward a

relative, sustainable peace.

“You might ask, ‘Why do we need to do this, when we’re conducting operations such as these in Iraq and Afghanistan?’” Rittenhouse said. “UQ06 is based on a global scenario in 2017. It’s an alternative future that includes ‘irregular’ partners.”

In UQ06, the Army — through TRADOC and USJFC — truly planned for the worst, to continue to prepare for contingencies in the future.

A July report to the Army chief of staff was a step forward with lessons learned from this complex exercise and incorporating changes into Army training doctrine, Anderson said. Such exercises allow the Army and other players to refine their operations concepts and follow-on war-game plans, Fastabend added. 



▲ The Pentagon Memorial Project commemorates the 184 people who died in the attack on the Pentagon. It will include 184 benches, each illuminated by a small, lighted pool.

Story by Andricka Hammonds

FIVE years have passed since the nightmarish morning when terrorists shook Americans' faith in the country's security. As the nation responded by supporting the Defense Department's war on terror, families of Sept. 11, 2001, victims rallied to create a Pentagon memorial.

"It's my mission that the crewmembers, passengers and Pentagon employees who died in the Sept. 11 attack are remembered," said Tom Heidenberger, director of the Pentagon Memorial Fund. Heidenberger's wife, Michelle, a flight attendant aboard American Airlines' flight 77, died in the attack.

The Pentagon Memorial Project

Andricka Hammonds is an intern in the Army's Office of the Chief of Public Affairs.

commemorates the 184 people who died in the attack on the Pentagon. It will include 184 benches, each illuminated by a small, lighted pool. A plaque with a victim's name will be placed at each bench, and the benches will be arranged according to victims' ages, ranging from Dana Falkenberg, 3, to John D. Yamnicky, 71.

"This memorial will be open to the public as a beautiful place for collective contemplation, remembrance, reflection and renewal," said Jim Laychak, Pentagon Memorial Fund president.

Laychak wears a silver bracelet bearing the name "David," for the brother he lost that day. "I just want people to remember," he said.

Laychak said he knew the Pen-

tagon had been hit before the news media reported it — he knew it the second the windows of his Alexandria home vibrated. Laychak's brother was working at the Pentagon that morning.

"He didn't have a cell phone, so I knew he might not be able to call me right away," Laychak said.

Other members of Laychak's family were also working at the Pentagon that day, and had already checked in.

"I started to get worried when I had not heard from David by three o'clock that afternoon," said Laychak. At 6 p.m. Laychak visited David's wife and children in their Manassas, Va., home.

As days passed with no word from his brother, the feeling of dread grew.

Seven days later, on Sept. 18, the

Fighting for a

Pentagon

family was notified that dental records had confirmed David died in the attack.

Laychak and Heidenberger have worked passionately to raise money and create initiatives to support the building of the Pentagon Memorial ever since.


The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took on the planning, site selection and design of the memorial. Corps personnel met with the Family Steering Committee, a volunteer group of victims' families, to get loved ones' input.

A jury — made up of design professionals, family members and Washington dignitaries, including two former defense secretaries — reviewed 1,126 design submissions. In Sept. 2002 the family members attended a private exhibition of entries from six design finalists. Those designs were also displayed for Pentagon employees in February 2003 so they could offer comments.

The design by Kaseman Beckman Amsterdam Studio of New York won the final vote, and the selection was announced in March 2003. Ground-breaking took place June 15 of this year, and the memorial is expected to be completed sometime in 2008.

"The memorial will cost \$28 million to build," said Heidenberger. "We've raised \$12 million so far." Beyond the \$16 million still needed to build the monument, maintenance will cost an additional \$10 million.

The Pentagon Memorial Fund is part

of the Combined Federal Campaign. CFC enables service members to donate money to nonprofit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. 

➤ The flag is draped over the edge of the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001 in memory of those who died in the terrorist attack.



To learn more about the Pentagon Memorial Fund, visit www.pentagonmemorial.net.



For information about the Combined Federal Campaign, visit <http://www.opm.gov/cfc>.



Additional news stories about the Pentagon Memorial can be found at <http://www.army.mil/ocpa/news>. Keyword search "Pentagon Memorial"



➤ The memorial will cost \$28 million to build, with about \$16 million of that still to be raised. In addition, maintenance costs will be an additional \$10 million.

Memorial

RECRUITS ELIGIBLE FOR TSP FUNDS

THE Army announced in April that recruits who are willing to fill critical job specialties may receive matching funds when they enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan.

The pilot program runs through Sept. 30. The results of the recruitment incentive will then be studied to determine whether the program should become a permanent part of the Army's recruiting program.

The incentive is available to all non-prior-service enlistees who elect to serve five or more years on active duty in critical specialties based on the needs of the Army. The specialties are subject to change and will be designated by the secretary of the Army.

Matching funds will be made on the first five percent of pay contributed each pay period of the Soldier's initial term. The first three percent of contributions will be matched dollar for dollar. The remaining two percent will be matched 50 cents on the dollar.

The TSP is a government-sponsored savings and investment program. It allows Soldiers to invest their salaries while offering tax-deferred advantages similar to civilian 401(k) plans.

Soldiers currently may contribute any percentage of their basic pay, incentives, special or bonus pay up to the IRS annual tax-deferred limit of \$15,000. Soldiers pay no taxes on the money until it is withdrawn.

A special feature of the TSP is that money contributed by service members while they're in combat zones will never be taxed, even if it is withdrawn early. Additionally, the only taxes paid on combat-zone contributions are on the earnings, rather than the balance.

Soldiers who serve short terms may reinvest or transfer their TSP contributions and earnings to retirement programs offered by private-sector employers. — *Army News Service*



DEFENSE INTEGRATED MILITARY HUMAN RESOURCES SYSTEM

TO meet the demands of the global war on terror, the Army is transforming its personnel-management methods by implementing the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System, or DIMHRS.

The Army has launched a DIMHRS Web site, which will be the service's primary means to communicate news and updates about the program.

"This enhanced Web site allows the DIMHRS team to tell the Army all about DIMHRS and to keep people informed on where we are with the program," said COL Jeanne Brooks, the Army DIMHRS program manager.

DIMHRS is the largest commercial, off-the-shelf personnel-management solution ever attempted by the federal government and will result in the largest, fully integrated human resources system in the world, Brooks said.

Supporting the Soldier is at the core of the Army's mission, and DIMHRS will provide the Army with a much-needed integrated personnel and pay system that is intended to ensure timely and accurate compensation, benefits and entitlements for the more than 1.3 million active, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers performing missions around the globe each day.

The Army DIMHRS Web site provides an overview of the DIMHRS program, as well as monthly highlights, Army DIMHRS announcements and a library full of DIMHRS resources.

Soldiers can stay informed on this historic personnel and pay transformation. — *DIMHRS Public Affairs Office*



Simply log onto the site at www.armydimhrs.army.mil.

ACES LAUNCHES VIRTUAL TUITION-ASSISTANCE GATEWAY

THE Army Continuing Education System launched the new GoArmyEd portal at www.GoArmyEd.com in April.

The virtual gateway is a one-stop location from which Soldiers can apply for tuition assistance and sign up for college courses. The portal can also link Soldiers to technical support.

Previously, Soldiers were required to visit an Army education center



HIRING INITIATIVE FOR IED SURVIVORS

SERVICE members seriously injured by improvised explosive devices during duty related to the global war on terror are getting a unique opportunity to use their experience to combat and prevent future improvised explosive device attacks.

The Joint IED Defeat Organization has partnered with the Operation Warfighter program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., to locate, recruit and hire service members, including many who have suffered serious injuries from IED attacks.

Operation Warfighter is a nationwide program that places wounded service members in positions within the federal government. Through this partnership, they can continue their service to the nation by working for the Joint IED Defeat Organization and possibly move into civilian positions in the same organization once they leave active duty.

Service members who work for the organization receive support services. Supervisors oversee the transportation needs of each individual, arranging for parking and transit passes. The work week is modified for each member to accommodate rehabilitation needs at Walter Reed. — ARNEWS



TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM

DENTAL readiness is a key component in determining the deployable status of our service members. The TRICARE Dental Program, administered by United Concordia Companies Inc., helps National Guard and Reserve Soldiers meet Department of Defense dental-readiness requirements.

The TRICARE Dental Program allows these Soldiers to meet and maintain dental requirements before they're called to active duty. The program also protects them from dental emergencies, especially when they're deployed.

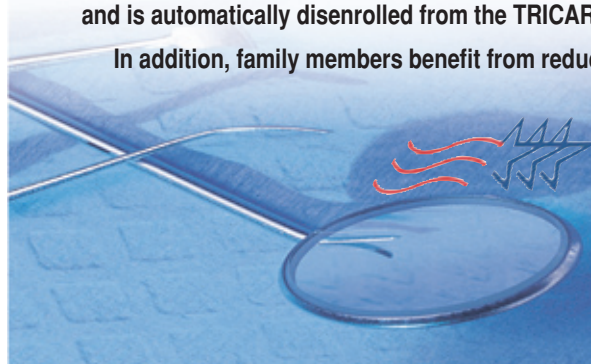
National Guard and Reserve Soldiers with at least 12 months remaining on their service commitments, and their families, are eligible for the TRICARE Dental Program.

If the enrolled sponsor is activated, he or she becomes eligible for dental-treatment facilities and is automatically disenrolled from the TRICARE Dental Program.

In addition, family members benefit from reduced monthly premiums while their sponsor is

on active duty. Family member reenrollment does not depend on the sponsor being enrolled. Family members may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program at any time.

— ARNEWS



to enroll in classes and process paperwork for tuition assistance.

The new system saves Soldiers' time and makes seeking a higher education easier. It also enables AEC personnel to focus on providing education counseling instead of processing hundreds of tuition-assistance invoices each month.

More than 150 schools that have historically processed TA with the ACES are listed in the GoArmyEd portal. These schools typically support 90 percent of the Army's TA-funded enrollments.

GoArmyEd is also now the portal for eArmyU, an online academic program offering more than 145 degree and certificate programs from 28 colleges and universities.

More than 65,000 Soldiers are enrolled in eArmyU, which was developed in 2001. — ARNEWS

Biking for a Memorial

FIVE bicyclists associated with America's airline industry, and a supporting recreational vehicle driver and co-driver — among them a man and woman who both lost their spouses aboard **American Airlines Flight 77** when it crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001 — have contributed to the cost of three memorials to honor those who died in the terrorist attacks.

As they rode their bikes — traveling between destinations aboard the RV — to pay tribute to 33 airline crewmembers, they made fund-raising stops in Phoenix, Ariz.; Dallas, Texas; and Somerset and Shanksville, Pa.

The two-day stops included “loop” rides, in which people wishing to donate money to the cause could ride around various communities with the group.

The 33-day coast-to-coast trip started at Dockweiler Beach, Calif., near Los Angeles International Airport — which was to be the destination of the four doomed, hijacked aircraft — and ended at the Pentagon.

The Airline Ride Across America raised about \$100,000 for each of the three 9/11 memorials.

The riders stopped at Fort Bliss, Texas, home of the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and later at Fort Campbell, Ky., home of the 101st Airborne Division.

While at Fort Bliss the group took a break at Milam Physical Fitness Center, named in honor of MAJ Ronald Milam, an air defense artillery officer who died in the attack on the Pentagon.

“I am deeply humbled,” said Thomas Heidenberger, organizer of the Airline Ride Across America. “Our lives have changed; you Soldiers are here to protect all of us



PFC Jessica Malott

now,” he told a group of Soldiers who had come to cheer the group on.


“This is so emotional,” said Sheri Burlingame, who drove the RV, and whose husband died in the aircraft that hit the Pentagon. “It is a healing process for all of us.”

Each day the cyclists paid tribute to one of the airline crewmembers, and each of the four weeks of the ride they paid tribute to one of the four flights.

The idea for the bike ride came from Heidenberger and Tony Asterita, both currently employed by US Airways.

“I got a call from Tom Heidenberger last fall,” said Burlingame, a retired American Airlines flight attendant. “He pitched the idea to me, and I thought it was great. I told him that I would not be physically able to ride, but I would do what I could to support the riders.”

From Los Angeles the group traversed the Southwest from Fort Bliss northeasterly through Dallas to Shanksville, where they remembered the crew of **United Flight 93**. From there, the ride continued to New York City, to honor **United Flight 175** and **American Flight 11**.

The final leg of the trip took riders through Philadelphia, Pa., and Baltimore, Md., before ending at the Pentagon. 

PFC Jessica Malott is assigned to the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Public Affairs Office at Fort Bliss, Texas.

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For more information regarding the Airline Ride Across America, or to make a donation, log on to www.airlineride.org.



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borne the battle and for his
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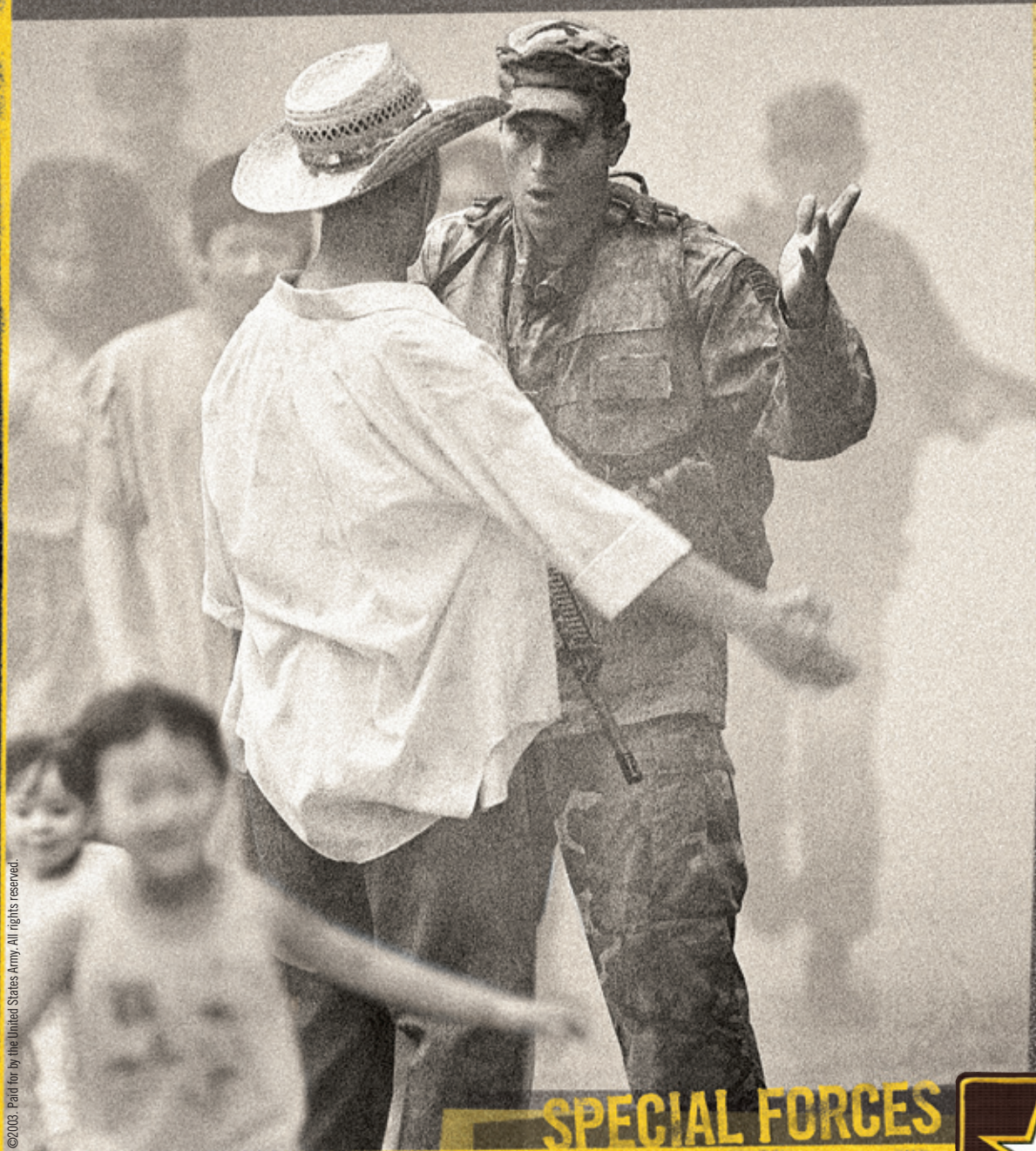
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